

Rule 1015-1. Joint Administration; Substantive Consolidation.

(A) Judicial Assignment. If a motion for joint administration accompanies a petition at the time of filing or, if no motion is filed, the clerk determines, at the time of filing, that the petitions appear to meet the conditions for joint administration pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(a) or (b), the clerk shall assign the cases to one judge pursuant to Local Rule 1073-1(B)(2). For cases jointly administered subsequent to the dates of filing of the cases, the court shall determine judicial assignment of the cases.

(B) Motion.

(1) Content. Motions for joint administration shall include a statement as to whether joint administration will give rise to any conflict of interest among the estates of the cases to be jointly administered.

(2) Consideration of Motion by Court.

(a) Chapter 11 Cases. A motion for joint administration filed in a chapter 11 case may be considered by the court ex parte if filed in accordance with Local Rule 5005-1(G)(1)(a) and Local Rule 9013-1(C)(14).

(b) Cases Other Than Chapter 11. A motion for joint administration filed in other than a chapter 11 case shall be considered by the court after hearing on notice pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(D)(4)(c)(x) and in accordance with Local Rule 9073-1.

(C) Local Form Order Required. A proposed order jointly administering a case shall conform to the applicable local form order jointly administering cases.

(D) Manner of Joint Administration. Jointly administered cases shall be administered as follows:

(1) Designation of Lead Case. For cases filed at the same time, the first case assigned to a judge shall be designated in the joint administration order as the “lead case”. For cases jointly administered subsequent to the original filing date, the order for joint administration shall designate the “lead case”.

(2) Style of Court Papers. Court papers filed after joint administration shall be styled as provided in Local Rule 9004-1(E).

(3) Docket. A single case docket shall be maintained after the entry of the order for joint administration, under the case number of the case designated in the joint administration order as the “lead case”.

(4) Claims. A separate claims register shall be maintained for each case. Claims shall be filed only in the name and case number of the debtor against which the claim is asserted.

A separate claim must be filed in each jointly administered case in which a claim is asserted against the particular debtor.

- (5) **Ballots.** A separate ballot register shall be maintained in each case in which a separate plan was filed. Ballots shall be styled only in the case name and number of the member case for which the plan being voted on was filed.

(E) Substantive Consolidation. Court papers filed after substantive consolidation shall be styled as provided in Local Rule 9004-1(F), but creditors receiving computer-coded forms should submit claims utilizing those forms. Any claim filed and docketed prior to the consolidation or received at any time on a computer-coded form shall remain docketed on the register and maintained in the file for the case number for which it was submitted.

[Comment: See Local Rule 9004-1 and 9004-2 (style of papers).]